

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: US/NEA TALKS ON ACCESSION

REFS: (A) STATE 22627

(B) OECD PARIS 5865

1. WILLIAMS AND STROHL MET WITH DEPARTMENT, ERDA AND NRC OFFICIALS MARCH 5. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS COVERED NEA/IEA RELATIONSHIP, U.S. PROGRAM INTERESTS, LEGAL ISSUES, STAFFING AND BUDGET.

2. NEA/IEA RELATIONSHIP - WE EXPRESSED OUR VIEWS AND ASKED WILLIAMS FOR COMMENTS. HE ARGUED THAT BEST WE COULD HOPE FOR WOULD BE THAT PROJECTS DEVELOPED IN IEA AND ACCEPTED BY NEA FOR IMPLEMENTATION COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS JOINT PROJECTS; PROJECTS ORIGINATING IN IEA BUT DEVELOPED
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AND EXECUTED IN NEA SHOULD NOT BE JOINT PROJECTS SINCE

WILLIAMS FEELS THAT "NEA TECHNICAL INSTITUTION WHICH CAN-NOT BE USED TO FURTHER POLITICAL ENDS OF IEA". WILLIAMS STRESSED THAT NEA MEMBERS NOT IN IEA, PARTICULARLY FRANCE, ADAMANT THAT NEA NOT COME UNDER "IEA TUTELAGE" WHICH HE EXPLAINED MEANT BEING SUBJECT TO IEA POLICY GUIDELINES. HE ARGUED AGAINST OUR SEEKING FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS AS TO NEA/IEA LINKAGE AS TO DO SO WOULD TEND TO HARDEN POSITIONS THAT WOULD BETTER SERVE OUR INTERESTS IF LEFT UNSPECIFIED.

3. U.S. PROGRAM INTERESTS - PROGRAM DISCUSSIONS AT ERDA OF GENERAL NATURE AND COVERED NUMBER OF RESEARCH TOPICS. WILLIAMS AND ERDA PROGRAM MANAGERS IN AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRIORITIES AND SUBSTANCE OF ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT GROW OUT OF U.S. ACCESSION. WE CONFIRMED OUR INTEREST IN HARDWARE-ORIENTED PROJECT AND ASKED WILLIAMS ABOUT NEA CAPABILITIES IN ADMINISTERING SUCH ACTIVITIES. WILLIAMS SAID THAT IN LIEU OF CARRYING THIS CAPABILITY IN-HOUSE SECRETARIAT NORMALLY PLAYED CATALYSING ROLE PASSING RESPONSIBILITY TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS. DISCUSSIONS AT NRC AIMED AT IDENTIFYING BENEFITS -FULL U.S. MEMBERSHIP GIVEN NEA PREFERENCE FOR BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COOPERATION.

4. LEGAL, STAFFING AND BUDGET ISSUES - IN RESPONSE REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION, WILLIAMS OFFERED DELAY SECRETARIAT MOVE TO UPDATE NEA CHARTER UNTIL AFTER OUR ACCESSION TO GIVE U.S. VOICE IN DELIBERATIONS. ON BUDGET HE SUGGESTED THAT 15 PERCENT REAL GROWTH IN 1976 REQUIRED PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION AND ARGUED THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE USED TO REDUCE CURRENT MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS. (IN FACT, WILLIAMS SAID NEA HAD VOTED REAL GROWTH IN 1976 ON EXPECTATION U.S. WOULD JOIN, BUT DID NOT EXPLAIN JUSTIFICATION FOR EXPANSION OF WORK PROGRAM FOR WHICH WE WOULD PAY BUT NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY OT HELP SHAPE.) WHEN PRESSED BY US, HE AGREED THAT 1976 BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM COULD BE REVISED TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC U.S. PROGRAM INTERESTS IF MEMBER STATES AGREEABLE. (WE INFORMED WILLIAMS THAT PRIOR TO ACCESSION WE WOULD EXPECT TO PROPOSE SPECIFIC PROGRAM AND BUDGET AMENDMENTS.) WILLIAMS ALSO AGREE WITH U.S. SUGGESTION THAT WE BE GIVEN NEA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL SLOT AT TIME OF ACCESSION. (WE SEE THIS AS A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR A

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DECISION TO JOIN NEA.)

5. AS USOECD HAS POINTED OUT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, U.S. DECISION TO ACCEDE TO NEA SHOULD BE ON GROUNDS THAT SUBSTANTIVE NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH EUROPEANS AND JAPANESE IS WORTH PURSUING, BUT THERE IS RISK THAT DECISION TO ACCEDE TO NEA WILL BE READ AS LESSENING OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR IEA, INCLUDING A NUCLEAR ROLE FOR THE AGENCY. HOW-

EVER, GIVEN NEA WILLINGNESS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO IEA NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES AS EXPRESSED IN JUNE '75 AT NEA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE NEA IS NOT WILLING TO SUBMIT TO FORMAL POLICY GUIDANCE BY IEA, FACT THAT FORMER WILL CARRY OUT PROGRAMS ORIGINATING IN LATTER MEANS THAT IEA CAN LEAD NEA AND CAN THUS PLAY A MEANINGFUL NUCLEAR ROLE. IEA IS ALSO FORUM WHERE ESSENTIAL WEIGHING OF PRIORITIES BETWEEN NUCLEAR AND NON-NUCLEAR ALTERNATIVES WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL

ENERGY POLICY DEVELOPMENT. NEW GROUP IN IEA TO COORDINATE AGENCY'S OVERALL NUCLEAR ROLE IS IN PROCESS OF BEING CREATED. IF WE DECIDE TO ACCEDE TO NEA WE WILL WANT TO EITHER MAKE BILATERAL APPROACH TO IEA/NEA MEMBERS AND/OR MAKE STATEMENT IN IEA GOVERNING BOARD AND IN NEA STEERING COMMITTEE TO EFFECT THAT OUR ACCESSION ON GROUNDS NEA CAN ADVANCE OUR TECHNICAL NUCLEAR INTERESTS AND THOSE OF NEA MEMBERS AS GROUP DOES NOT SIGNAL A LESSENERED INTEREST IN AN IEA NUCLEAR ROLE. RATHER, U.S. BELIEVES THAT IEA WILL INCREASINGLY PLAY A KEY ENERGIZING ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR PROGRAMS (WHICH FULL U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN NEA STEERING COMMITTEE WILL STRENGTHEN) AND ALSO SERVE AS PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF NUCLEAR POLICY. KISSINGER

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